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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5557
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
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SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON QADHAFI'S JUNE 3 ADDRESS BEFORE ALGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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BEGIN SUMMARY: OVER PAST THREE DAYS, LIBYAN MEDIA HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO WHAT IS VIEWED BY OBSERVERS HERE AS ONE OF QADHAFI'S CLEAREST EXPOSITIONS TO DATE ON LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY. ARAB UNITY, THE RESURGENT "IMPERIALIST THREAT" AGAINST AFRICA, AND THE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN SAHARA AND CHAD ARE AMONG THE TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE LIBYAN LEADER. THE IMPLICATIONS OF QADHAFI'S COMMENTS ON WESTERN SAHARA AND CHAD

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ISSUES WILL BE TREATED IN SEPARATE TELEGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PROMINENT TREATMENT ACCORDED BY THE LOCAL OFFICIAL MEDIA TO COLONEL QADHAFI'S JUNE 3 ADDRESS BEFORE THE ALGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT SURPRISING, BUT FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN TRIPOLI HAVE ALSO NOTED THE CLARITY, EARNESTNESS AND EVEN THE LOGIC WITH WHICH THE OFTEN RAMBLING LIBYAN LEADER PRESENTED HIS VIEWS. ONCE AGAIN, QADHAFI STRONGLY CALLED FOR ARAB UNITY "NOT AS A SENTIMENTAL CALL BUT AS A NECESSITY IMPOSED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE WORLD LIVES." WHILE APPLAUDING THE EXTENSIVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS ALGERIA AND LIBYA, QADHAFI WARNED THAT "WHATEVER RADICAL TRANSFORMATION THEY ACHIEVE ... ALL OF THESE ACHIEVEMENTS WILL REMAIN AT THE MERCY OF THE WINDS IF THEY (ALGERIA AND LIBYA) ARE NOT PART OF A STRONG ENTITY WHICH TAKES ITS PLACE AMONG THE GIANTS OF THE WORLD." AMONG THE "GIANTS" MENTIONED WERE THE NATO AND WARSAW PACTS, CHINA AND INDIA. THIS NECESSITY TO BE POWERFUL IN TODAY'S WORLD, SAID QADHAFI, LED INDIA TO JOIN THE ATOMIC CLUB -- "DESPITE THE UTTER MISERY OF ITS PEOPLE -- BECAUSE IT MUST BE EITHER STRONG OR BE TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT."

2. ON THE QUESTION OF UNITY IN THE MAGHREB, QADHAFI EMPHASIZED THAT "THE IDEA OF A FEDERATION BETWEEN THE JAMAHIRIYAH, ALGERIA AND TUNISIA ... IS AN IDEA WHICH DESERVES ALL ATTENTION AND SUPPORT." HE SAID THAT TUNISIA COULD BE MENTIONED IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGARD -- "EVEN IF SHE IS NOT WITH US TODAY" -- BECAUSE SUCH A FEDERATION WOULD BE USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO TUNISIA.

3. ECHOING A FREQUENT LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY THEME OF THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, QADHAFI NOTED THAT IT WAS THE PRESENCE OF A "VACUUM" IN THE AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES RESULTING FROM THE ABSENCE OF A COHESIVE ARAB FEDERATION WHICH PERMITTED FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS. HE ADDED THAT ALGERIA AND LIBYA COULD NOT "PUT THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND" AND THAT THE "ENCIRCLEMENT OPERATION" AROUND THE TWO STATES WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY QUOTE FRANCE, THE WHOLE OF EUROPE, THE US AND THE REGIMES WHICH WELCOME THE RETURN OF COLONIALISM TO AFRICA UNQUOTE. HE FURTHER WARNED OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH "INTERVENTION" AND SAID THAT IF WHAT IS HAPPENING FROM CHAD TO THE WESTERN SAHARA "IS A CRUSADE, THEN LET IT BE SO. WE HAVE NOT CHOSEN THIS. THEY (THE WEST) HAVE."

4. QADHAFI'S SPEECH ALSO CONTAINED THE MOST LENGTHY CRITICISMS TO DATE OF MAURITANIA'S POLICY IN THE WESTERN SAHARA AND OF THE "ANTI-MOSLEM" NATURE OF THE NDJAMENA REGIME. IMPLICATIONS OF THESE REMARKS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. CARLE

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